(d) As per the detailed verification made by the Assessing Officer, there are only 41 refund claims pending over one year in Ward 40(4), New Delhi.

(e) The pendency of 41 refund cases is due to factors attributable to assesses like quoting of wrong PAN/TAN and in this regard, the assessing officer has issued deficiency letters to the assesses. The action plan of the Government to address this issue is by adopting various methods to ensure quick issue of refunds in all cases where due. The actions taken are by way of directions to the field formations to dispose off all cases by processing of returns within four months of the filing of return and out of these, the refund returns are to be accorded top priority first and thereafter, the other cases are to be taken up. Further the verification of the TDS in cases involving refund upto Rs. 25,000/- has been waived to expedite the early issuance of refunds in comparatively low value cases.

Revision in age limit for senior citizens

2373. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the age limit for senior citizen for the purpose of grant of higher rate of interest in Banks and lower fare in Rail reservation is 60 years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons that the said limit in 65 years for the purpose of Income Tax calculations or rebates thereon;

(c) whether Government proposes to revise the age limit and make the definition of Senior Citizen uniform for all purpose;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The qualifying age limit of 65 years for senior citizens has been adopted for Income-tax purpose, keeping in view the income earning capacity of this class of persons as well as the revenue outgo due to the enhanced exemption limit and other deductions.

(c) No such proposal is under consideration at present.

(d) Not applicable.

(e) The variation in the age limit for senior citizens among Central Government, Ministries or Departments in respect of grant of concessions or facilities is due to the difference in the respective purposes for which such concessions are granted.

Burden of Sixth Pay Commission on public exchequer

2374. SHRI RAHUL BAJAJ: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is going to be the annual burden of the Sixth Pay Commission on the Central and State Exchequers during the financial year 2009-10; and